

ROMAN CHURCH

MARK TWAIN ON CATHOLIC CRAFT

Apropos of comment on the liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius, the following from Volume 2, Chapter 2, of "The Innocents Abroad," by Mark Twain, might be of interest to our readers:

"In this city of Naples, they believe in and support one of the 'wretchedest of all the religious impostures one can find in Italy—the miraculous liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius. Twice a year the priests assemble all the people at the cathedral, and get out this vial of clotted blood and let them see it slowly dissolve and become liquid—and every day for eight days this dismal farce is repeated, while the priests go among the crowd and collect money for the exhibition. The first day, the blood liquefies in forty-seven minutes—the church is crammed, then, and time must be allowed the collectors to get around; after that it liquefies a little quicker and a little quicker every day, as the houses grow smaller, till on the eighth day, with only a few dozen present to see the miracle, it liquefies in four minutes.

"And here, also, they used to have a grand procession of priests, citizens, soldiers, sailors, and the high dignitaries of the city government, once a year, to shave the head of a made-up Madonna—a stuffed and painted image, like a milliner's dummy—whose hair miraculously grew and restored itself every twelve months. They still kept up this shaving process, as late as four or five years ago. It was a source of great profit to the church that possessed the remarkable effigy, and the ceremony of the public barbering of her was always carried out with the greatest possible eclat and display. The more the better, because the more excitement there was about it the larger the crowds it drew and the heavier the revenues it produced—but at last a day came when the Pope and his servants were unpopular in Naples, and the city government stopped the Madonna's annual show."

The following taken from Volume 2, Chapter 1, of "The Innocents Abroad" may also be of use to you:

I wish here to mention an inscription I have seen before I forget it: 'Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth TO MEN OF GOOD WILL.' It is not good scripture, but it is sound Catholic and human nature.

"This is in letters of gold around the apsis of a mosaic group at the side of the scala sancta, church of St. John Lateran, the Mother and Mistress of all Catholic churches of the world. The group represents the Savior, St. Peter, Pope Leo, St. Silvester, Constantine and Charlemagne. Peter is giving the pallium to the Pope and a standard to Charlemagne. The Savior is giving the keys to St. Silvester, and a standard to Constantine. No prayer is offered to the Savior, who seems to be of little importance anywhere in Rome; but an inscription below says, 'Blessed Peter, give life to Pope Leo and victory to King Charles.' It does not say, 'Intercede for us, through the savior, with the Father for this boon, but 'Blessed Peter, give it us.'"

"In all seriousness—without meaning to be frivolous—without meaning to be irreverent, and more than all without meaning to be blasphemous—I state as my simple deduction from the things I have seen and the things I have heard, that the Holy Personages rank thus in Rome:

- "First—The Mother of God' otherwise the Virgin Mary.
- "Second—The Deity.
- "Third—Peter
- "Fourth—Some twelve or fifteen canonized Popes and Martyrs.
- "Fifth—Jesus Christ, the Savior,—(but always as an infant in arms.) I may be wrong in this—my judgement errs often, just as is the case with other men's—but it is my judgement, be it good or bad.

Just here I will mention something that seems curious to me, there are no 'Christ's Churches in Rome and no 'Churches of the Holy Ghost' that I can discover. There are some four hundred churches, but about a fourth of them seem to be named for the Madonna and St. Peter. There are so many named for Mary that they have to be distinguished by all sorts of affixes, if I understand the matter rightly. Then we have churches of St. Louis; St. Augustine; St. Agnes; St. Calixtus; St. Lorenzo in Lucina, St. Lorenzo in Damasco, St. Cecilia; St. Athanasius; St. Philip Neri; St. Catherine; St. Dominico, and a multitude of lesser saints whose names are not familiar in the world—and away down, clear out of the list of churches, comes a couple of hospitals; one of them is named for the Savior and the other for the Holy Ghost!"

PRIESTLY FUNCTIONING

The following advice, printed in a recent issue of the "Parish Record," a Roman Catholic magazine in Chicago, will be real amusing to civilized people with brains. Read it:

Sick Calls—The pastor should be notified at once, if a member of the congregation is seriously sick. Do not wait until the person is dying. A grown person should call for the priest and not a child, in order that all particulars may be given, concerning the sick person. Sick calls will be attended at any time, day or night.

For the administration of the Last Sacraments you must have prepared in the sick room, before the arrival of the priest:

1. A small table covered with white linen cloth.
2. On the table a crucifix.
3. On each side of the crucifix a blessed wax candle.
4. Holy water.
5. Salt and small pieces of bread.
6. Cotton.
7. A glass of fresh water.
8. A table spoon.

When the priest brings the Blessed Sacrament with him, receive the priest at the door with a burning wax candle, and accompany him, carrying the Blessed Sacrament to the sick room. All present in the house should kneel down and observe the strictest silence.

SAYS WILSON AIDS CATHOLICS

Asbury Park, N. J., Nov. 24.—President Wilson's appointment of Catholics to Federal offices was criticized today by the Rev. Dr. James W. Marshall, Superintendent of the New Brunswick District of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Dr. Marshall also scored the President for his "vacillating policy in Mexico," and said that the reason he was "so tardy in taking action" was because Mexico was a Catholic country.

THE BLACK NUNNERY

F. M. LEBMAN

Catholicism! thou proud and haughty beast!
How long wilt thou on bleeding victims feast?
Thy blackened trail of midnight years
Is crimson-soaked with blood and tears.
The priest—thy tool—with PURPLE stole,
Enchains the sense and damns the soul.
Great God! when will the Protestant awake
To kill this crawling, cursed, Roman snake!

Thy Hell-born creed has long the Christ withstood.
Thy lust-out robes are dyed in martyrs' blood.
Before thy gates are piles of bones.
Within are sighs and muffled groans.
Both priest and nun—thy fallen tools—
Make victims in thy cursed schools.
Thy SYSTEM, void of conscience, truth and heart,
Is unexcelled in depth of cunning art.

Within thy cloistered WALLS are living tombs
Where Virtue's lovely flower scarce ever blooms.
SHE—humbled—in sublime disgrace,
Yields to the Roman priest's embrace.
The priest—christ (?) and the virgin (?) nun,
Complete the sin the church begun.
The scapular, the crucifix and stole,
The dark confessional—all damn the soul.

That dark "hole in the wall," what sin is there!
Where Rome's black hand has deftly laid the snare
The vow, the veil—the afterpart—
The stifled sob—the bleeding heart
The long, long for some bosom friend—
A few short years and then the end.
The girl, once pure and sweet, and passing fair,
Must die, of virtue robbed, in this dark lair.

Secularism hides thy heinous crimes and sin,
Behind thy cloistered WALLS, what woes within!
The priest—christ (?) and the virgin (?) nun
Let here their passions' hot course run—
and then the LEGITIMATE,
Born but to meet thy crowning hate,
The finger tips on infant's nostril pressed
Forever stills the heart-beats in its breast.

Thy coils round legislative halls are wrapped,
With threat and gold the statesman is entrapped.
Thy sword is sheathed, but votes are bought,
And truckling men by thee are sought.
To thus work out the pope's demand
In homeland here and foreign land,
Foul monster thou, with cunning deep and strong,
Thy reign has run its cruel course too long.

O Protestant, wake up! this Roman BEAST
Must be disturbed in this her vaulting feast!
Our battle-cry—Break down her walls!
Let loose her slaves! 'Tis justice calls!
Unfrock the priest, unrobe the nun!
This war on Rome must be won!
The monast'ries and nunneries must go,
The WALLS around these hells must be laid low.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The usual services will be held at the Christian Church next Sunday. The subject of the morning sermon will be "The Wrong Use of Scripture." At the evening service the subject will be "The Perfection of Jesus." Of course we expect the membership of the church to be present, and all visitors will be more than welcome.
J. W. Ligon, Minister.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

Dr. G. W. Argabrite, of Louisville, will preach at the Baptist Church Sunday morning and evening. You should hear this great divine, he is one of the most eloquent and impressive speakers in the south.

Baptist Church Prayer Meeting.

A large attendance marked the prayer meeting services held at this church last Wednesday evening, the first of the New Year. Brother Amis conducted the exercises, reading for the evening lesson the entire sixth chapter of Romans, every verse of which affords material for an instructive sermon, and which concludes: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The brethren present alternated in short addresses appropriate to the lesson and the ladies conducted the choir service in which the audience joined with spirit.

Rev. W. D. Powell, Cor., Secy., of Kentucky Baptist Mission Association, of Louisville, who was recently removed from that city to the Gulf Coast of Florida on advice of his physician for treatment for typhoid fever is rapidly improving and expected soon to be at his accustomed post of duty.

METHODIST CHURCH.

The regular services will be held at the M. E. Church next Sunday morning and evening. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

Remember the special revival services to be held in this church, beginning Monday night, Jan. 12th 1914. Come out to these services and let us have your hearty cooperation in this work.
E. R. Overly, Pastor

Ladies Aid M. E. Church.

The Ladies Aid of the First M. E. Church will give their annual "Spelling Bee" and "Pie Social" in the Sunday School room of the church, Friday evening, Jan., 9th 1914, at seven o'clock in the evening.

MRS MILLER HOSTESS.

On last Saturday afternoon, from two to four o'clock, Mrs. James Miller entertained quite a number of her friends in honor of her sister, Mrs. Todd, of Richmond, Mrs. Miller was assisted by Mrs. Todd and Miss Black in receiving her guests. The house was artistically decorated in red and green, potted plants, ferns and poinsettias being used to give this effect. The dining room was especially attractive, red and green being used profusely.

On the dining table was a beautiful basket of red and white carnations, and the refreshments, which consisted of brick cream, cakes and candies, which were also carried out in the red and green.

As a result of Cincinnati's water famine, all hotel guests were denied baths, but it is not supposed that the habits of the city were much interfered with in other respects.

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NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

Miss Gertrude Dawn Black was hostess, on New Year's day, at a reception in honor of Mrs. Henry Clay Black, of Johnson City, Tenn., and Mrs. Eugene Todd, of Richmond, Ky. The house was charmingly decorated in keeping with the Holiday season. In the drawing room, where Miss Black, assisted by the guests of honor, received. The greens were relieved by beautiful bouquets and baskets of roses and poinsettia. The same scheme of decoration was carried out in the library and dining room, where the lights were softly shaded. On the table from which the ices and tea were served, by Mrs. James Miller and Mrs. Elizabeth Archibald, was a lovely clany lace cover over green satin. In the center of the table was a pretty plaque of roses.

Miss Black wore a handsome gown of purple chameuse trimmed in braided crepe de chene and fur. Mrs. Black wore a green Japanese bordered satin, and Mrs. Todd's gown was green satin draped in black lace.

It is time to take heroic measures against this drug heroin,

FAREWELL PARTY FOR MRS. STANFORD

The Ladies Aid Society, of the Christian Church, entertained informally at the residence of Mrs. Pete Kennedy, on Main Street, Wednesday afternoon in honor of Mrs. Charles Stanford, who will leave soon for her new home in Mooringsport, La. The house was decorated beautifully with poinsettias and evergreen.

Mrs. Kennedy's guests included Mesdames:

- Charles Stanford, — Hewitt,
- J. A. McDermott, William Amis,
- O. C. McClung, D. C. Payne,
- A. N. Herndon, J. W. Ligon,
- Lewis Lents, H. C. Faulkner,
- W. W. Tinsley, Carrie Dickenson,
- Charles Rathfon, S. T. Davidson,
- James R. Taggle, L. W. Farmer,
- J. Lynn Golden, H. P. Cottengia,
- Lee Pennington, W. R. Poole,
- G. A. Doan, W. W. Eager.

On account of important business, the President has been unwilling to take any vacation, but it seems as if he might ride down to Mount Vernon and back on the trolley without making any difference to the country.